27-9-74 (Slater)
0226, 8, 11

Sukey Tawdry
Queen Alexandra (Princess)
Beggars Opera
'Gascon cannon ~~[illegible]~~ never recoil
Hébuterne 'field of slaughter'
Colwitt – the man is south
Jesu lover of my soul
fighting are Prussians.
Being wounded 'drop the
bugger here'

Lady of Pool – pp 1-2

his own rifle

1

1. to 16
XB.

Notty on the confounded staff of [illegible] so read it only when you feel like it

of Calvary Nursing Home
Harrow-on-the-Hill
Middlesex

The afternoon of September 27th, a ~~Thursday~~
Dies Veneris.

Dear René

Was very interested in what you tell of 'tawdry' meaning 'silk' in the ~~1840s~~ 1820s & 50s. But could not recall ~~the~~ anything of S. Ethelreda & S. Audrey but I see the point & also the fortunate fact ~~they~~ ~~the names of both rhyme with 'tawdry'~~ the sound of both, especially Audrey evoke 'tawdry.' But actually I was thinking of Suky Tawdry in ~~the~~ The Beggars Opera. As you know I've never been much of a 'theatre-goer,' but I used to go to see or hear that play with my art-school friend Frank Medworth at I think, a theatre in Hammersmith in the period immediately following the First War. We both had a particular delight in it. I can recall nothing of ~~the~~ names nor plot, nor any of ~~[illegible]~~ the characters except Suky Tawdry. When I wrote 'to rig out Ann my wife like Suky Tawdry' it was because 'Suky Tawdry' ~~seemed~~ fixed in my mind as the only name that summed up what I intended. In this I may have been very ~~off~~ off-target of the real Eb. B. He would, more like, to have said "a regular Queen of Sheba." ✗ But 'Suky Tawdry' it had to be for me. And not only because her Xian name ~~[illegible]~~ I happen to greatly like, but her so to say, agnomen, Tawdry, was absolutely what I wanted. Apart from the passage on page 119 of The Ana., there is on page 161, Lady of the Pool section, — a passage, said by the Lady of the Pool herself after ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ signing herself

? or eighth, I don't ~~[illegible]~~ know.

awfully well known work but not sure of the Author or the words 'Guide'

edition of Milton none of Shakespeare ~~[illegible]~~ except one or two brought by my sister or myself.
My Father's books ~~[illegible]~~ had among them Jewel's Apology for the ~~[illegible]~~ Ch of Engd. in beautiful light-coloured leather — 'full calf' I believe they call it.
& Bunyan of course, not only Pilgrim's Progress but others of Bunyan — the title of which I can't remember & also 'Baxter's(?) Guide(?) to a Devout & Holy Life
& also a most useful little book containing the text of the Bk of Common Prayer but giving the sources of all the translations (mainly ~~of~~ Cranmer's) from the Sarum ~~[illegible]~~ Offices of Matins & Lauds & the Mass & Vespers.
it was compiled by a Welsh ~~[illegible]~~ clergyman ~~known~~ to my father. ~~[illegible]~~. ~~[illegible]~~ A most useful little work,
and though I've sometimes tried to get a copy of it — no one has ever heard of it. I don't ~~mean~~ that it was a great work, or the ~~contrary~~ contrary it ~~was a~~ pretended to no great scholarship, but served a most useful ~~[illegible]~~ purpose in that one could see at a glance from what source this or that Collect, versicle, response or Sequence had come & to what extent the words ~~were~~ used had ~~[illegible]~~ assumed a slight or considerable ~~[illegible]~~ change of feeling or emphasis.

There is one jolly amusing story about Eb. B. When Edward VII as Prince of Wales became betrothed to his bride from Norway, Norway o'er the foam, Alexandra ~~of Rome~~. The vessel that carried her stood into the estuary of ~~London's river~~, ~~etc.~~ What ~~point~~ ~~[illegible]~~ I [illegible] wished to. Tilbury: But ~~must [illegible]~~ to welcome ~~her~~ ~~for [illegible]~~ and ~~noblesse~~ [illegible] among them Eb. B. was among them

"★ To rig out Ann, my wife, like a regular Queen of Sheba" or possibly some word or two from that passage in Milton description of Delilah "comes this way sailing like a stately ship" seeing that he was so much addicted to ~~reading~~ Milton. When I was going through the books in the Brockley house became my father had to give it up & go to Nursing Home at Sydenham owing to heart attacks I found four or five

Cavy had a fair chance of observing these good looks & slender of bearing, came back to his water-side house & for some days got quite cracked on put out of the radiant beauty he had seen that Ann, his wife, names scary struck to him.

(2)

English adaptation of Llywelyn, the maker of such gear as archery requires.

lest the London ~~Welshman~~ Welshman, 'Wellin Fletcher,
Wildgoose ~~the~~ Lane had related how he had seen
the ghost of ~~St~~ Coel Hên in St Peters Church-upon-
Cornhill standing next a stone associated
with St Lucius at service time on a Whit Saturday.

within the Context 'Wild Goose Lane' is almost too much to be 'given on a plate' But then it was.

*Which Fletcher's skimble-skamble tale makes a' honest body feel all or'rish an druidical: May the Sign fend me from his Welshery!

Then she goes on to speak of the many churches within the ~~[illegible]~~ walls of London *

:

At 'Hallows -
by the shameful tree
where the molls pray the Hanged Man & his
Dolorosy Queen.
At so many bliss'd sites
What body knows to whom they all hallow'd be?

(162) At ad ~~Vincula~~ Vincula
wrong side the bloodied moat
(That's where they keep the chopper bright, captain
and no candle
to ligh it you to bed)

and so on - .

All this meant to evoke places of ~~[illegible]~~
public execution of ~~whatever~~ whatever sort,
most of it implicitly along with much
besides, and inevitably Lle'r Benglog &
Stabat Mater juxta Crucem, and ~~explicitly~~
explicitly at "'Hallows
by the shameful tree
Where the Molls pray the Hanged Man & his
Dolorosy Queen" – the 'Molls' I had ~~are meant~~ in
mind ~~[illegible]~~ were the ~~[illegible]~~ various Sukey ~~Tawdry~~
Tawdries of the Beggars Opera
as also in a less direct fashion
are, in The Introduction to the Ancient
Mariner pp 17 & 18 about how Our Lady
as Comforter of the Afflicted ~~[illegible]~~
visited the Mariners & that even
(18 Cent Newgate would have allowed that
Corporal Work of Mercy)
and She brought him Grief Slumber

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* The foot-notes explain the ~~other~~ choice of each particular church & churches c. Peter ad Vincula is within the outer bailey of the Tower

that too no doubt was often brought ~~[illegible]~~ by those many & very various of comforters of the afflicted to those confined within the many Newgates throughout the long torment of the ~~[illegible]~~ ages.'

I thought I had somewhere written something also from the Beggars Opera — something having it's origin or part-origin with "The youth in the cart hath the air of a Lord & we cry (or ~~[illegible]~~ something) how fair an Adonis!" — can't remember, but something of that sort. Anyway you see the association — somewhat on the same street more or less with 'lyd Absolon thy gilte tresses clere' — we are ~~on the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ getting toward the outer entanglements of ~~[illegible]~~ François Villon & where in the celestial constellations would Libra be, but juxta the constellation of of Virgo?

Another 'stage play' Frank Medworth & ~~[illegible]~~ ~~was~~ went ~~[illegible] bar [illegible]~~ to whenever it was possible was became of the line 'Gascon cannon never recoil' ~~[illegible]~~ I don't know how it sounds in Frog but we used to drag it into any conversation when possible & laugh like anything.

Sunday Oct 6. I got yr letter of Oct 2nd, yesterday Saturday 5th.

Thanks for telling me about Hébuterne but my Hébuterne could not have been in the Pas-de-Calais Arrondissment or Department or however they term these larger divisions of land in France ~~from~~ for the 'field of slaughter' of ~~the~~ Irish units was I suppose about ten miles or less ~~North~~ of Mametz. The assault was made on the north & the south bank of the river Ancre. Hamel* ~~[illegible]~~ which would have been at ~~[illegible]~~ about the centre of the attack is just on the north bank of ~~the Ancre~~. the River Ancre.

*Not to be confused with Beaumont Hamel

Tuesday ~~Wednesday~~ Oct 8th

Thanks for yr letter dated Oct 2nd, that I got yesterday Oct 7th in the afternoon

I've mislaid it already but I did read it & I'll find it again. I think it a good idea if we had a bit of a breather for a while on the analysis of The Ana, I.P., Sleeping Lord & Coy for one thing it must prevent you from ~~doing~~ making (three blood cheers for ~~Nicomacia~~ Nicomachean Ethics ~~M~~ VI. 4. and Agathon & the Lesbian rule – for what is indeterminate is itself indeterminate also") anyway you must have spent such a whacking lot of time dealing with the stuff of mine & I also must try to get a bit more of the Kensington Mass made if possible. But I must here go on a bit about 'Hébuterne and the Irish dead.'

By a curious chance Colin H. (the nice ~~[illegible]~~ man who visited Mametz Wood & sent me those photographs of it freshly grown in spite of its being stricken & torn by shrapnel & H.E. sixty or so years ago.) came to see me on Sunday afternoon and brought with him part of the typescript of a thing he's working on about the 38' Welsh Division & much besides. He's an incredible bloke for accuracy & has spent oceans of time reading all the official matter available both English & German (the latter in translation) ~~&~~ For me, at all events, it was a great ~~treat~~ treat & also revealed to me things that I ~~[illegible]~~ knew nothing of before. Among other matters that long march from the La Bassée area down south to the chalk lands of the Somme ~~aspects~~ of which Part 5 of I.P. are concerned with, was a much wider curve than I had thought. I do on page 119, middle of page, speak of 'the south road gleaming scorching white its wide plotted curves; you could see the ~~the~~ turned tail of the column for the hot dust, by ten o'clock'. But that might apply to almost any movement in column of route. Actually ~~after~~ leaving the places mention on page 116 of I.P. we went pretty well due south-west right far back behind the forward zone ~~area~~ before we gradually turned more-or-less south-east & the chalk lands ~~of~~ the Somme valley. And before moving

5 5

South we stayd in the vicinity of St Pol & for a while the 15th ~~[illegible]~~ battalion; HQ was at Bailleul-aux-Cornailles and the whole Division made a so-to-say 'dress rehearsal' of the place ~~[illegible]~~ it was supposd we would attack in actuality. Now I cannot recall at all any of this Divisional practice-ground ~~on~~ full scale. Not a single bloody thing remaind in my mind when I was writing IP. nor can I now recall anything at all of this extensive rehearsal. Strange isn't it?

So from the bottom of page 116 of IP to the 'where tiny hills begin at last to bring 7a fr the Flaundrish flats of page 117 — There is a recalling of the "country that had remembered Uhlan patrols in the standing crops of '14" & of the extremely early hour of ~~[illegible]~~, reveille at 4.30 & 3.30 and the complaint the company billets were too far from Battalion assembly point & the long waits for other columns to pass at cross-roads ~~and~~ of the changing weather... and ~~[illegible]~~ of how at one place commissioned ranks changed into slacks to walk ~~[illegible]~~ a village street in the pleasant cool of evening & various other matters were recalled but ~~not~~ no indication whatever of the Divisional 'rehearsal'. Of course I state in preface of I.P. that this book was in no sense meant to be a chronological record of one particular Infantry battalion but still I wonder that all recollection ~~[illegible]~~ was totally erased from my ~~[illegible]~~ mind. Given my personal dislike (to put it mildly) of 'field-days' & such like it may be that I felt this particular 'Divisional rehearsal' was of no significance to Part 5 which really was meant only to ~~indicate~~ evoke something of our ~~the~~ long march from the La Bassée area, to the Somme Valley, ~~[illegible]~~ & that this 'rehearsal' in the region of St Pol had no bearing on that long, long march. But what I [illegible] odd is

~~[illegible]~~ Notes to Part 6, Note 13, page 219, under Divisional Rest

~~not~~ indicative and one could perhaps cite the occasion when in Oct or Nov 1918 waiting ~~to~~ to return to France, I should not, a good many years later, have written to Tom of the red-skirted girl driving a red ~~[illegible]~~ cow in a red sunset... cattle raiders, horse raiders

soldiers, queens, queans, the great dignity — the Bronze Age returns, fuit ~~[illegible]~~ Ilium the few soldiers with me tho' I feared might whistle, but no fly too was avoided by the splendour of the bare-legged cattle-girl ~~who~~ walked as ~~queen~~ only queens in Chwedlau & sagas walk — we ~~should would~~ would not have come by that path — had we not slipped from some Field Day ~~[illegible]~~ frolic & known that the point of reassembly was near to hand.

6

6

- I can recall nothing whatever of the 'dress rehearsal' by the whole Division — for what ~~[illegible]~~ it was expected to do in actuality when the Somme was reached. It is of no consequence whatever, but odd. —

I took the opportunity of asking Colin H. about the ~~to~~ matter of Hébuterne & the Irish dead & he said he'd go into that & send me a note, which he most kindly did. It appears that when we were relieved in Mametz Wood on July 12th ~~sup~~ by other troops, we marched north ~~to~~ to the area of another Army Corps. Now it was ~~Corps~~ Army Corps that determined the doings of ~~troops~~ within this Corps area — (very like bishops of dioceses see to it that priests ~~of~~ whose their jurisdiction don't operate outside the diocese except for some special reason & with the ~~the~~ other ~~consent~~ permission)

Well it's ~~too~~ far too complicated to go into here but it appears ~~that~~ from the diary of the 15 RWF. that on July 17th they moved into, let's call ~~[illegible]~~ it 'Z' Corps and from July 18 to 24 "supplied working-parties in the Hébuterne ~~trench~~ trench sector"

~~The~~ Hébuterne is round about 5 miles north from Hamel on the north bank of the River ~~Ancre~~ Ancre & the Irish had ~~[illegible]~~ made their assault on both north & south banks of that river on July 1st

Sometime between July 1st & July 15th the Corps boundary had shifted a bit south ~~& Corps [illegible]~~ & Hamel became inside the extended Corps territory. ~~But~~ Hamel had been at about the centre point of the Irish attack ~~though~~, as I have ~~[illegible]~~, said above Hébuterne is about five miles ~~[illegible]~~ north of Hamel, & I presume the frontage of the Irish attack was very extensive — certainly their casualties were ~~which were of exceptional~~ quite exceptionally heavy even for those Somme battles.

Anyway, ~~[illegible] the supplying those was [illegible]~~ although we did "supply working parties in the Hébuterne trench sector" for some six days, ~~[illegible]~~ i.e. July 18 to 24.,✗ -

Contin on Sheet 7

✗ I, of course, was cosy in a hospital in ~~Bury~~ Birmingham, for it was some time after that that I was sent to the Nursing Home between Stratford on Avon & Banbury Cross. where I got into trouble for being seen having tea with one of the nurses & her mother on the lawn, & trying to eat strawberries & cream which I loathe, but was far from loathing the lovely nurse; But it was a strict rule of the place that on no account could one visit ~~[illegible]~~ the homes of the Staff. But as the lawn & garden was near, we thought we'd chance it — but the daughter of the Scots Doctor (who ran the place ~~[illegible]~~ and was a nice enough chap)) but had the maddening habit of a certain kind of Scot. of great solemnity & moralizing — Almighty God made the universe subject to certain rules — & human institutions, even this Nursing Home's unitary have rules etc but his red-haired daughter was matron, & somewhat of a R.S.M. type, must have spied us from a top window & evidently reported having seen the little tea-party on the lawn, ~~with the~~ maybe be ~~[illegible]~~ out of invidia of some sort — I know, but even now nearly 60 years after, I harbour an unforgiving feeling towards her — but to go further into that episode as a whole would require a ~~good~~ song & dance of some length.

I don't mean envy on my account but just a general female spite.

no mention is made of what ~~these working parties~~ the ~~fatig~~ fatigues were for, but it seems probable that they were engaged in this grim task especially as it is explicitly stated that it was work in the "Hébuterne trench sector"*

~~But~~ I had only heard of 'Hébuterne' & the Irish dead from Leslie P. in some conversation when I returned to the battalion, ~~from being wounded on July 10/11th 1916~~ in Oct 1916 after my wound on the 10–11th July & found them in the Boisinghe Sector just north of Ypres, "Wipers if yer dont mind"*

So it looks as though Leslie, as usual, was accurate. This Hébuterne must be another one from that ~~th~~ given in yr gazetteer. for this one is as I have said, about 5 miles north of Hamel ~~which~~ is on the north bank of the River Ancre, and Hamel in turn is a good five miles ~~[illegible]~~ north ~~&~~ & ~~Mametz & Albert~~ somewhat ~~east~~ west of Mametz ~~& Albert~~ & I should think about 5 miles due north of Albert.

[illegible]

It's so damned annoying to be without maps — for apart from details in I.P. I ~~think~~ maps ~~and~~ ~~of~~ charts would, ~~[illegible]~~ maybe, of greater aid to the reader of The Ana — at all events they were indispensable to the author in certain parts of the Ana. In fact I'm coming to the conclusion that many books, & of all sorts, ~~[illegible]~~ might well do with maps and Indices. It's so much of a relief when one finds a sketch-map so that one can see at a glance ~~what~~ what pages & pages of text have failed to achieve.

Colin H. told me of all sorts of most interesting things — for example when I mention (page 160 I.P.) ~~[illegible]~~ hearing

[illegible]

Jesu lover of my soul sung in Welsh to the air known as ~~Aberystw~~ Aberystwyth & I say '~~But~~ that was on the right with the genuine Taffies' when I wrote that, I remember ~~being in some~~ hesitating about 'on the right' – but it appears I was quite accurate and ~~that~~ he, Colin, had known an old man ~~of~~ a ~~his father~~ friend of his father's who was among the 'genuine Taffies' who had sung ~~that~~ that hymn but not only that particular hymn but Bryn Calfaria & a number of other Welsh songs & hymns ~~and that~~ what strains I had heard would come 'from the right' as the battalion concerned was to the right of my battalion – I heard only a few lines [illegible] and but faintly owing the smothering sound of intense gunfire, both 'ours' & 'his'. Unfortunately the old survivor of those Welshmen who had sung had died only a few weeks or months ago * but he had told Colin not long back ~~that~~ that they had sung & continued to sing on the chalky slope. They ~~suffering~~ ~~suffering~~ suffered much greater casualties than did my battalion owing to the particular alignment of the ground they had to cover ~~in~~ approaching the wood – & got the full ~~fire~~ fire-power ~~of the Germans,~~ of the enemy. – It was amazing how ~~such~~ accidents of, may be, a few ~~years~~ yards, caused one unit to have moderate casualties & another unit suffer much more greatly. There could be other factors of course, of all kinds. Anyway I'm ~~glad~~ ~~glad~~ glad that I heard ~~that~~ ~~inimitable~~ inimitable sound of Welsh song however fleeting & all but drowned by the ~~[illegible]~~ noise of the 'malice of the engines' & ~~[illegible]~~ that it did come ~~the right~~ 'from the right,' as I had thought.

* Colin said he was sorry that because he had missed the chance of discovering with more exactitude both their position & the other hymns or songs they had actually sung – for the old veteran had said to me ~~that~~ 'yes we sang with scarce a break, just as we would ~~at~~ at the pithead or at Cardiff Arms park or anywhere.'

And inimitable it most certainly is. Those male voice choirs of the mining valleys in those days had to be heard to be believed. You know how real monastics singing the chant – could not be imitated – so it was with the quite differing song of real Welsh voices.

You may remember that I mentioned to you at some time, how when I was home on leave after the Somme affair my mother said I must go to visit an elderly aunt of hers as she would be very hurt ~~[illegible]~~ that I was home for, I think, 14 days & had not gone to see her. So, with some feeling that it seemed hardly necessary, I went to pay my respects to the aged lady — a dignified figure in black with white lace collar & bonnet of some sort. She lived alone except for a house maid who came during the day-time, how she managed to do all that is required of a house — she ~~[illegible]~~ still lived within a short distance of the Pool of London and refused to budge. She looked exactly as though she had stepped out of Dickins — anyway almost the first thing she said was: "Well David, I hear you have been fighting the Prussians & have been slightly wounded. And within a few days are returning to your regiment. as is the duty of a soldier.

Last time you know, we thought the Prussians were in the right & the French in the wrong but I understand ~~that~~ now, our King & all the Lords of the Council and the whole Government and indeed all the people consider that the Prussians are wholly to blame & that we must go to assist the French in their rightful struggle against the forces of ~~of~~ Kaiser William I of Prussia and indeed of all Germany.

Actually she said 'Kaiser Wilhelm the Second' & recall how 'the Old Queen' were she still alive would have lamented this turn of events.

Now God bless you & soon I expect you will, with all the British Army in France be back again — your dear mother will write to me to tell me how you are." That roughly what the old lady said or at least I can't recall anything else.

Her mind was clear enough — very much so but ~~she~~ evidently the 1870 Franco-Prussian War stuck in her mind.

However that may be, "David, I hear you've been fighting the Prussians" has served as extremely amusing whenever I have recounted it, either to the family or to friends. 'Suppose the old girl reckoned you spent half your time knocking out bloody great Goliath-sized Jerrys with perfectly aimed sling-stones' & so on."

But Colin H. who I knew would enjoy the story said "Well she was at least right on one point, for one of the reasons why Mametz Wood was toughly held & with admirable tactics was

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(10)

at least partly due to the fact that though various German units were employed, the main resistance & dispositions ~~was~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in the hands of detachments of a~~[illegible]~~ant spell the word used, Lehr (no thats not quite got it) but what we might call ~~troops~~ trained to be drafted to crack ~~[illegible]~~ a special corps ~~[illegible]~~ regiments of Guards. ~~At~~ one point the German command orders were issued ~~[illegible]~~ ~~that~~ the Wood must be retaken & that in fact Jerry dug in just within the northern edge of the wood just as we had was mentioned on page 175

"And its nearly dark when the trench is dug etc That was in the evening of July 10". There was obviously an uncertainty ~~[illegible]~~ by both 'us' & 'him' But the foot-note ~~on page 178~~ on page 178 of IP it is obvious ~~that~~ ~~at~~ 9.35 PM definite orders had been given to again move forward. & the remaining pages 179 + 180, 181, indicate varying confusion, ~~even a~~ even a bit of panic & (page 180) false rumours & even some few actually trying to 'beat it' as Corporal Bains (p. 181) 'But Captain Cadwalador holds the westward ride ~~[illegible]~~ and holds secure at least that ~~[illegible]~~ tiny bit of frontage and by giving straight ~~orders~~ and exact orders, not to mention his loaded Webley ~~[illegible]~~ his 'tirade of foul oaths' it prevents the likelihood of any further 'Corporal Bains.'*

~~It is here~~ in mid page 181 that I use the Malory passage - "And then the mist ~~[illegible]~~ see Sometimes the battle driven a bow draught from the Castle & sometime at the gates of the Castle" To indicate the still uncertain situation & a renewed ~~[illegible]~~ and closer physical contact of the combatants (p. 182) & then a ~~[illegible]~~less. In short, battle swayed like that of Shakespeare's Towton. ~~contact~~. Sometime ~~between~~ after 10 or 11 PM on July 10th ~~this~~ these swaying fortunes continued, but we ~~[illegible]~~ slowly gained the whole wood except for ~~the~~ some part of the northern edge. But sometime after midnight ~~&~~ about 1 or 2 AM of July 11th I

"Damn in the Classroom
Blast on the rugger field,
but Bloody ~~[illegible]~~ hell I
will not have"

I so often think with continued amusement of your story of your school days. & also of how the Abbot could ~~could~~ not read certain passages from the Iliad I think, you said, without shedding tears. What was his name, was it 'Mat' that you called ~~him~~ so did Harman. That breed of men are not to be found nowadays from what I gather.

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was wounded in the left leg as described on page ~~[illegible]~~ page 183 of I.P. At least I have always supposed that the time was in the early hours of July 11th, but have ~~not~~ no real proof of the hour but in writing I.P. (begun in 1928) I had a fixed sense that such was the time. It was anyway pitch dark, but of course it would be pitch dark (especially in wood) at midnight or 11 P.M. of the 10th of July as it would be at 2 A.M. on July 11th. So I have ~~not~~ no absolutely firm ground for supposing the earlier hour other than my continued impression.

But this can be added, though it in no ways helps to clarify the exact time. I record it here for you ~~as~~ it is amusing and indicative of ~~the~~ general muddle as related on p. 183, finding that I could not stand up or walk I ~~c~~ crawled away in the opposite direction" — that is in the direction ~~away from~~ of our own lines thinking that there might be some chance R.A.M.C. man — I don't know how far I crawled & my rifle with bayonette fixed ~~—~~ I had somehow managed to sling over my shoulder & it hung a dead weight & somehow 'fouled', as sailors say, with my tin hat, but I did not want to be without my rifle — partly for the obvious reason that I had no other weapon & after all ~~for~~ for all I knew there might well be ~~groups~~ crowds of Germans about, though what I imagined I could do with my rifle ~~under~~ under the circumstances I can't imagine — after a bit more crawling I found I should have to abandon it, which I did, still with a sense of shame & ~~affection~~ a feeling that can only be described as ~~any~~ real affection* for what I was leaving. My gasmask I kept on grounds of sheer utility. At some point I found myself, pace

akin to the feeling of leaving a mate or something — or as when a child has to leave a toy it has an affection for.

akin to the feeling of leaving a mate or something — or as when a child has to leave a toy it has an affection for.

The said flaw in the grain above the lower sling-~~[illegible]~~swivel' on p. 184 corresponded to an actual streak in the wood.

Looking at at a corporal whom I recognised as of my own battalion — I did ~~know him well~~ not know at all well but I can see his ~~Welsh~~ kindly Welsh face — a country-man's ~~[illegible]~~ face, even now. I can't remember ~~what~~ he said but ~~I~~ recall only his lifting me up and carrying me on his back. We had not got far when ~~we~~ in the darkness or ~~we found ourselves~~ half darkness a tall figure emerged who happened to be a Major and ~~the~~ 2nd in Command of our battalion, a Major and a Welshman, much liked, and very tall, good looking, & I think in civilian life, in the Legal profession. ~~[illegible]~~ He said "Is that you Corporal X?" "Yes Sir, I was trying to carry Pte Jones a bit nearer the ~~[illegible]~~ advance ~~the R.A.M.C.~~ Dressing station or find some stretcher bearers Sir." "Corporal X you will, no matter who he is, drop the ~~[illegible]~~ bugger here. If every wounded man ~~was~~ is to carried from were he has chanced to fall, by a corporal or any other of the rank & file — we ~~[illegible]~~ would ~~[illegible] would be losing the strength we are~~ double our loss in ~~[illegible] as it is [illegible] that's not overmuch, put Pte Jones~~ fire-strength & that's not over much as it is. Put Pte Jones (of 'B', I think?) down immediately. ~~Bearers~~ stretcher-bearers will find him within a short time. ~~You~~ Don't you know there's a sod of a war on?" * That's all I can remember & ~~[illegible]~~ don't pretend that the words are verbatim. But that's the substance of it.

That last bit amused me, even at the time, for it was pretty obvious that a war indeed was on.

Sunday Oct 13. Yr letter of Oct 10th came yesterday. for which many thanks. I was delighted with yr mention of 'the lancer-whiskered floozy buccinators' because that again was given to me ~~[illegible]~~ 'on a plate'. I ~~[illegible]~~ remember how I was trying to find salpinx in the Greek Lexicon — which I may say is a terrible business for me — because while I more or less know the Greek Caps, the Greek lower-case I find extremely difficult — I feel like the little girl who said "what's the use of a dictionary unless you know how to spell already?"

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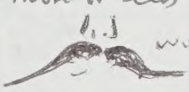
Anyway — in trying to find something to do with the salpinx; my eyes lighted upon what, in the Greek-Lexicon, was translated 'lancer-wiskered salpinx-blowers' It seemed ~~too~~ good to be true. Is it to supposed that Greek trumpeters really go in for for the same style of moustache as that favoured by ~~British~~ Regular Army R.S.Ms & by ~~other~~ Warrant Officers & N.C.Os, of the ~~[illegible]~~ Brish Army of the first decade of this century & the last decade of the 19th cent, and moreover that ~~band~~ bandsmen ~~copied &~~ especially the NCOs of the band followed the same fashion especially in ~~[illegible]~~ waxing the carefully groomed ends ~~[illegible]~~ more or less ~~the~~ giving this appearance  with variations.

In the passage you quote from Aristophanes' The Frogs (circa ~~[illegible]~~ 360 B.C?) I'm entirely & woefully ignorant of the great Greek deposits But it gives the feeling that the salpictae who sported ~~their~~ 'lancer-whiskers' must have ~~[illegible]~~ wished to emulate the style of some ~~others~~ ~~in~~ the composition of the ~~Helenic~~ Greek armies. — or does the text merely refer to the lance-like shape ~~[illegible]~~ peculiar to ~~those~~ the moustaches of those Salpinx-blowers?

I [illegible] Latin ~~for~~ salpinx-blowers for I cant wade through the Greek-Lexicon to re-find the word. But see over ~~leaf~~ leaf p.14.

'lance-shaped moustaches' or 'spear-pointed moustaches' and there is a word qualifying lancea indicating a broad-headed lance or spear — I think it is latus — (I suppose ~~it~~ root having close relationship with our old friend the ~~the~~ wide laticlave) .. for a broad spear-head tapering to its sharp point, tallies well with 'Lance-whiskered'. But Lancer-whiskered ~~[illegible]~~ would seem to mean ~~[illegible]~~ whiskers as ~~[illegible]~~ those characteristic ~~of~~, or favoured by, Lancers.

Later ~~[illegible]~~ ~~second~~ same day Oct. 11th Monday.

Deo Gratias! I ~~have~~ 've found at last the damned thing in the Gk: Lexicon giving the quotation you give.

σαλπιγγο-ῠπηνάδαι, οἱ, ~~Ar. Ran. 966~~
Lancer-whiskered trumpeters, Ar. Ran. 966.

page 1437
of a somewhat ancient Edition of Liddell & Scott. pub. May 1869. Oxford.
The abbreviation Ar. is given as short Aristophanes in list of abbreviations used but no ~~[illegible]~~ mention of Ran. but 966 is as you give it.

God how difficult it is to make ~~a greek lowercase~~ that ~~ghastly~~ ghastly initial figure σ look ~~[illegible]~~ anything but a vegetable of some sort with a cut-off bit of stem stuck on it. It's as bad in ~~print~~ typeface as it is written, also the lowercase ς at the end of words I find very difficult, whereas the Cap. S, Σ. is a real form.. I note that the figure in Liddell & Scott immediately after the hyphen is ῠ whereas you give a jolly beautiful χ, also have never understood why for the figure α all scholars in writing α lower case make a form somewhat like α, but in typeface it is almost indistinguishable from a latin lowercase a.

In my dugout at Monksdene I had all sorts of things I could refer to including N.T. Greek grammar but at least it had a clear list of the words in the Greek alphabet in both Caps & lower-case but here have it not. and as I'm so totally stupid so can't remember many of the Greek lowercase – & sometimes shaky about some of the caps I'm somewhat put to it.

Two chaps have kindly made me clear lists of all the letters both Caps & lower-case, but I've lost both their lists.

There is one that letter, the 14th in the Gk. Alphabet

As a Cap. it is Ξ really peculiar in the unconnectedness of the three bars but not impossible – it depends on the artistry used in judging the ~~[illegible]~~ spacial relationship between the two longer bars with the shorter middle bar

V/

λογχbut as a lowercase letter it takes a surprizing & difficult form that I can never manage ξ something like that but not giving any certainty of feeling. I wonder how it ~~deve~~ developed. I read what ~~[illegible]~~ Liddell & Scott say about ~~& how~~ , this fourteenth letter in the Greek ~~[illegible]~~ alphabet & how ~~[illegible]~~ it ~~stood~~ had various forms in the differing Greek dialects, ~~[illegible]~~ as Aeolian, ~~Sam~~ Samian, Dorian, but I did not what it said was ~~much help~~ of any help, except that in one of its forms it equated with ~~[illegible]~~ the sc in Latin scabo, but that was no explanation of its bloody form.

Two chaps at different times have kindly written out for me the Greek alphabet giving the Caps and the lower case ~~A, alpha, α~~

Caps.			lower case	
	A	alpha	α	
	β	beta	β	
	L	gamma	l	
	Δ	delta	δ	etc.

But I've mislaid both these blasted lists. I mislay everything. My antique copy of Liddle & Scott has lost its first few pages & begins ~~in the middle of~~ at the Preface, but I suppose it would not have had a page preceding the Preface, giving a list of the Greek Alphabet compleat from Alpha to Ω ~~&~~ giving the Caps & the lower case, for immediately following the Preface it gives ① summary of the ~~[illegible]~~ IX principle eras of Greek Lit. followed by List II, giving the Authors & editions referred to then III List of abbreviations & List IV giving Signs Etc. Then ~~as~~ straight away the Lexicon proper A. A — ἀβακής.

~~[illegible]~~

So I presume there is ~~not~~ no page giving the alphabet ~~[illegible]~~ its cap. & lower case forms with the name used for each letter. This is done in ~~most~~ dictionaries ~~of~~ various languages but not it would seem in the case of the Greek-English Lexicon or in Lewis & Short Latin-English Dictionary its ~~page~~ facing page 17 of Agenda Spring Summer 1967 issue

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Expect all this must seem ~~to~~ to you a very
odd thing for me to crack on about
but I do find as I've said above Greek letters
especially lower-case difficult to remember.
I find it to a ~~lesser~~ much lesser degree
~~the~~ difficulty with Welsh words, mainly
to the mutation of initial consonants
e.g. Caernarvon in Welsh spelling is Caernarfon. (f = v)
but 'in Caernarfon' is Yng Nghaernarfon
but 'in Dolgellau' is yn Nolgellau
& 'in Pontypridd' is ym Mhontypridd.
as in the place now called Builth Wells
but in Welsh Buallt (Buellt being the name of
a whole Cantref) the town & castle
where the church ~~being~~ dedicated to Our Lady
is rightly speaking Llanfair ym Muallt
Mary's church in [the cantref of] Buallt.
These changes are all caused by one or other
of the three kinds of mutation, soft, Nasal or
Spirant & there are nine mutable consonants
c, p, t, g, b, d, ll, m, rh. The first three, c, p, t,
are affected by each of the three mutations, soft, Nasal & Spirant
g, b, d are affected by two only of the mutations, soft & Nasal
ll, m, & rh are affected by one only of the mutations, the Soft.
I, personally, nearly always have to consult a grammar
or dictionary as to whether such & such a word
having an initial consonant that is subject to mutation,
may become. Sometimes my dunderheaded ears
allows ~~me~~ to get it right without much thought.
for example the north-western part of Wales
Snowdonia and Ynys Fon, the Llŷn peninsula
Arduddwy & Meirionnedd constitute
Gwynedd < Venedotia, and, owing to
a number of reasons partly historical
partly owing to the beauty, ~~of the terrain~~
~~very~~ varied beauty of the land, it
~~Gwynedd~~ is called Gwynedd Wen
the word gwen means
'white' and also 'blessed' it is a feminine
noun here use as an adjective qualifying
Gwynedd (also a feminine noun) and
the rule is that all adjectives or nouns
used adjectively, following feminine nouns
are subject to the Soft Mutation, which
in this case causes the loss of
g and leaves us with Wen — so
Gwynedd Wen. Even the,

with the most next-to-no understanding at all of ~~the~~ Welsh phonetics makes 'Gwynedd Gwen' impossible. But that chance I be
mutation one can hardly get wrong — which is by no means always the case. So you are getting down to learning
some O.E. You will without doubt manage it for such is yr ability. People have told me that is more complex than
German in its requirements as to agreement of number, gender & case. ~~A~~ Cousin of mine Ruth Pethybridge by name or rather Ruth Daniel as
she married a very nice chap called Norman Daniel years ago. But when she was at Oxford in the nineteen-thirties the [illegible]
Eng. Lit. & O.E. was part of the curriculum then. She loved O.E. especially I remember her reading to me part of the Dream of the Rood
including that bit that much later I used as part of a inscription ONGYREDE. HINE·ÞA·GEONG·HÆLEÞ·ÞÆT·WÆS·GOD·ÆLMIHTIG
stripped · himself · then or the · young · Hero · that was God Almighty
And though I dont know the exact translation I'm now not certain
I've thought it Þa must stand for 'then' but in that case HINE has no definite article before it
I have seen it translated somewhere as 'When the Young hero' taking the initial letter be
the O.E. Ƿ called a wen or wyn, almost indistinguishable from Þ (thorn) but we still have no 'the' before hine

I'll write later about complaint concerning the Welsh use
of w & y. but must stop now

Much love to Joan & of course, to yr self
God bless you love Dai